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To: Dialysis Providers

Clarification of EPO and Aranesp Monitoring Policy

The following are key points to remember when billing for EPO and Aranesp:

- This reduction will apply to both home dialysis patients and those receiving dialysis in the facility.
- The revised definition of the GS modifier is, "Dosage of EPO or Darbepoetin Alfa has been reduced and maintained in response to Hematocrit or hemoglobin level."
- The GS modifier should be placed on the claim unless the Hematocrit is above 39 % (hemoglobin 13.0g/dL) and a corresponding dose reduction was not made and maintained.
- When modifier GS is not present, EPO and Aranesp payments will be reduced by 25%.
- The 25% reduction in payment can be appealed to Alabama Medicaid if the provider has justification that is appropriate for the EPO dose and HCT. Send documentation to Jerri Jackson, Associate Director, Institutional Services Division, 501 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36103-5624.

If you have any questions about this policy clarification, you may contact Jerri Jackson via phone at 334-242-5630 or via e-mail at jerri.jackson@medicaid.alabama.gov.

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